

pleading on Reid's behalf that she had to trust the courts to do the right thing.

"I don't know that my apology to you will help you at all," Molina said. "I can only say I apologize for not being more attentive."

Promising to personally pursue the issue, Molina said, "We've got to really take the gloves off on this thing, because this is a real battle. If that department [the Department of Children and Family Services] could not protect those children, then we should not be empowering that department to carry out this work."

Supervisor Mike Antonovich quickly added his apology. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said the whole board apologized for what happened to Jonathan.

After the meeting, Reid said Molina's apology "meant a lot. She was sincere. That is the first sign of remorse I have seen in the county."

Reid said Tuesday's hearing and the conclusion of two civil cases filed over Jonathan's death and Debin's placement in foster care were gratifying milestones in her family's quest for justice.

The determination to press for further action on Jonathan's death has occupied Reid and her family for years, she said Tuesday. At each step of the way, nine family members have gathered to vote on strategic decisions about how to pursue the case, she said.

Along the way, the family has turned to one lawyer after another—seven in all.

"Every time a lawyer didn't believe in me or in this case we got rid of them," Reid said. "Jonathan is still very much a part of this family."

#### VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF CITYHOOD

##### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the citizens and civic leaders of Victorville, California on the 40th anniversary of cityhood for the Mojave Desert community. The history of this rapidly growing city is a fascinating glimpse of the growth of the inland areas of California.

Like many of the towns of the Southwest, Victorville began its existence as a railroad stop. Around 1885, a station was established at the Mojave River crossing on what ultimately became the Santa Fe Railway's on its Mojave Desert. It was named for Jacob Nash Victor, a railroad construction superintendent who was a pioneer in the early development of the expansion of the railroad to the west. In 1901 the US Postal Service renamed the city to Victorville to eliminate a name duplication problem with Victor, Colorado.

When it was incorporated on Sept. 21, 1962, the city of Victorville had grown to just over 8,000 residences; by 1995 the city boasted a bustling population of 60,649 and had increased its size to 67.68 sq. miles, an increase of over 58 sq. miles. Rich soil and an abundance of water encouraged the development of the agricultural community. Large deposits of limestone and granite led to the cement manufacturing industry, which has emerged as the most important sector of commerce in the Victor Valley.

With the historic Route 66 running through Victorville and heading on up to Chicago, the town has always provided numerous activities

for tourists, included a Route 66 museum and the San Bernardino County Fair. The city has become the commercial hub of the Victor Valley, which includes more than 300,000 people in a wide range of communities.

One of the most important national connections with Victorville began in 1941 with the construction of the Victorville Army Airfield. Later renamed George Air Force Base, the base construction was completed on May 18, 1943. When fully activated, the base housed two jet fighter wings of the Tactical Air Command whose primary aircraft was the F-4 phantom Wild Weasel, which provided vital electronic reconnaissance from the Vietnam War through the Persian Gulf War. The base also employed over 6,000 military and civilian personnel. In January 1989 the Secretary of Defense announced the closure of the base. In the past decade since the closure, Victorville annexed the base, renamed it the Southern California Logistics Airport, and has turned it into a booming new commercial center and international cargo airport that is expected to serve the entire Southwest region.

Mr. Speaker, I have proudly represented the City of Victorville for more than two decades in Congress, and I have watched it grow into a dynamic city that is well-governed and fiscally sound. The City Council now oversees a budget of \$77.6 million for 69,298 citizens who are known for their friendliness, self-sufficiency and optimism. Please join me in congratulating the city leaders and the community for their 40 years of cityhood, and wishing them continued success in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF TIM HOLMAN, GERMAN TWP. FIRE AND EMS

##### HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Tim Holman, who is the chief of the German Township Volunteer Fire Department and EMS. Chief Holman was recently named "Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year" at the 2002 International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Kansas City.

Tim has volunteered for the German Township Fire Department for 27 years, and he has served as chief since 1991. By incorporating his private sector business experience into the management of the fire department, Chief Holman successfully consolidated two township fire departments, while also implementing an officer development program, a quality improvement process, and a team building process. Chief Holman has been essential in the streamlining of his fire department, allowing the brave volunteers of the German Township Fire Department to better serve their community. I applaud Chief Holman, and the men and women of the volunteer fire departments throughout my district, for the dedication, sacrifice and commitment that exemplifies volunteer fire departments.

#### AMENDING THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

##### HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today, along with my colleague in the other body, the Senator from New Mexico [Senator BINGAMAN], who serves as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, to introduce this important legislation. The bill we introduced today will amend PL 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, to clarify the treatment of Title III funds reserved by counties under such Act.

Since 1908, Congress recognized that federal land deprived counties of revenues they would have otherwise received and therefore accorded a measure of compensation to counties by sharing revenues derived from National Forest System lands. Further, Congress annually appropriates funds for counties that are considered payments in lieu of taxes (PILT), an amount that is based upon a formula derived from the amount of federal land and revenue sharing receipts.

In recent years, counties have increasingly suffered hardship due to the severe fluctuation of shared federal receipts. Local education and road maintenance programs have been the most affected by the declines. PL 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, was borne as a result. The intent of the bill was to address the fluctuation of shared federal receipts and restore stability and predictability to the annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management for use by the counties for the benefit of public schools, roads, and other purposes. Congress further created opportunities within this Act to enhance the restoration, maintenance and stewardship of Federal lands. For example, under Title II of this Act, eligible counties have the opportunity to place a percentage of their payments toward cooperative projects on federal land.

PL 106-393, originally introduced by Representative Nathan Deal and Senator Ron Wyden, enjoyed bi-partisan support in both Houses of Congress and was ultimately signed into law on October 30, 2000. It set forth three categories by which eligible counties could elect to receive their stabilized payments under Title I, II, or III, or a combination thereof. Eligible counties receive Title I and Title III funding directly while Title II funding is directly held by the federal government and allocated toward cooperative federal projects that I briefly mentioned above.

As it stands however, PL 106-393 undermines the stability and predictability of payments it purports to provide the counties. To understand the enormity of impact, it is critical to remember that PILT is the only form of federal payment that a county can use for its day-to-day operations. While appropriated PILT funds have always been impacted by shared federal receipts, the Act kept Title I consistent with the shared receipts and its relationship with PILT payments. However, the intent of the Act was that Title II and Title III would not impact PILT.